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### ***Kernan Helps Open New SaladTime Facility in Plymouth; 188 New Jobs on Tap for Community***

PLYMOUTH – Continuing Indiana's healthy diet of growth, Lt. Governor Joe Kernan today joined state legislators, along with local and company officials, for the opening of SaladTime's newest facility in Plymouth.

The company, a leading processor, packager and distributor of pre-cut, pre-washed bagged salad, invested \$12.7 million to renovate the former Procter & Gamble building located at 2050 North Oak Rd. SaladTime, which will bring 188 new jobs to the area by 2004, plans to use the updated facility to service clients in the central and mid-Atlantic states.

"This is a solid fit for Plymouth and for northern Indiana and we couldn't be more pleased to have SaladTime here," said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts. "With the addition of this company, the community now has a more diverse economy and almost 200 new jobs for Hoosier workers. My thanks go to the Plymouth Industrial Development Corp. and our Indiana Department of Commerce for all that they did to make this happen."

Employing state-of-the-art technology, the facility will house the company's commodities function, which includes the cleaning and trimming of produce sold to grocers. It will also process and package bagged salad.

"This is a great day for our city," said Plymouth Mayor Jim Yeazel. "With the departure of Procter & Gamble, this community lost 200 jobs and this building sat vacant. Today, we're bringing life back not only to this facility, but to our economy as a whole."

Marketed under the SaladTime brand name, the company serves a variety of groceries throughout the nation including Sav A Lot, Kroger, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of California-based Tanimura and Antle, Inc.

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“This Plymouth site gives us everything we were looking for,” said John Killeen, SaladTime LLC general manager. “It has the workforce, the facility and the central location we need so our business can continue to grow and reach into new markets across the nation. We are excited to be here and thankful for the support that we received.”

To ensure the project’s location in Marshall County, the Indiana Department of Commerce, the city of Plymouth and the Plymouth Industrial Development Corp. worked with SaladTime to offer assistance.

Commerce offered the company up to \$600,000 in EDGE (Economic Development for a Growing Economy) tax credits and \$55,000 from the Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF) to help defray the cost of training new employees. Commerce also awarded the city of Plymouth a \$100,000 Industrial Development Grant, which the city will match, to assist in infrastructure improvements required by the new facility. In addition, the city of Plymouth offered 10-year tax abatement on real and personal property.

“I believe that this is a great example of how the state of Indiana works with local communities to attract new business and jobs to our state,” said State Rep. Gary Cook, who attended today’s announcement. “I am very thankful that the Indiana Department of Commerce, through Lt. Governor Joe Kernan’s office, joined with Dough Anspach of the Plymouth Industrial Development Corp. to convince SaladTime that Plymouth is the right place to locate their new facility.”

“SaladTime’s choice to locate here in Plymouth means jobs, it means investment and it means progress – and it’s a big win for everyone involved,” added State Sen. Bill Alexa, who was also in attendance.

The Indiana Department of Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Funds to Indiana companies that undertake capital-investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in transferable and company-specific skills necessary to support these projects. Industrial Development Grants are awarded to municipalities that undertake infrastructure projects in support of new business development. The grants help defray the costs associated with the expansion of an existing company or the location of a new manufacturing facility. EDGE tax credits are based on the creation of new Hoosier jobs and are awarded to companies that may otherwise locate in another state or country.

Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund, the Industrial Development Grant Fund or the EDGE program should contact the Indiana Department of Commerce’s Business Development Division at 800.463.8081 or visit the Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

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